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F. L. RANSOME. "Ore Deposits of the Rico Mountains, Colorado. *Twenty-second Annual Report of the U. S. Geological Survey*, Part II, 1900-1901, pp. 229-397.

Ransome describes the ore deposits of the Rico Mountains, Colorado, and incidentally summarizes the geology of the area, referring the reader to a previous paper by Cross and Spencer¹ for further details. The Algonkian rocks consist of quartzites and schists, exposed just north of Rico and in the canyon of Silver Creek. They appear as fault blocks, in the heart of the dome, thrust up from below into the later beds.

WHITMAN CROSS. "Geology of the Silverton Quadrangle, Colorado." From *Bulletin No. 182, U. S. Geological Survey*, 1901, by F. L. RANSOME.

Cross summarizes the geology of the Silverton quadrangle, Colorado, for Ransome's bulletin on the economic geology of this quadrangle. Algonkian quartzites and schists appear beneath the volcanics where the Animas River and the Uncompahgre River and its tributaries cut through the volcanics.

Irrigation. By F. H. NEWELL. New York: T. Y. Crowell & Co.

MR. NEWELL's book is written from the economic and social point of view, and emphasizes the importance of irrigation as a national problem. For this reason the general reader, as well as the person directly concerned in home-making in the arid West, will read the work with interest. Guided by his extensive experience with problems of irrigation, the author contrasts the present scanty occupation of the western two-fifths of the United States with the possibilities for home-making when the present water supply shall have been properly conserved.

At the present time 7,300,000 acres are under irrigation, while the natural water supply is sufficient for ten times that acreage. The success already attained in this small fraction of the area abundantly justifies the national expense already incurred, and becomes the basis for urging national aid in bringing greater areas under irrigation. Certainly the addition of 60,000,000 acres, equivalent to two states the size of Pennsylvania, to the present productive area of the public domain is an expansion in the right direction. The fact that these lands capable of irrigation are distributed, oasis like, through regions which must always yield but scanty returns, and that these areas have a calculable productivity equal to the best land in humid states, are

¹ WHITMAN CROSS AND A. C. SPENCER, "Geology of the Rico Mountains, Colorado," *Twenty-first Annual Report of the U. S. Geological Survey*, Part II, 1899-1900, pp. 1-165; summarized in *JOURNAL OF GEOLOGY*, Vol. X (1902), p. 910.

convincing arguments for national control, and for protection from speculative monopoly.

The author lays much stress upon the fact that problems arise from irrigation that cannot be successfully handled by individuals or even by states. The setting apart of forest lands for the regulation of the water supply; the building of reservoirs for impounding the headwaters of streams; the adjusting of water rights on streams that cross state lines; the establishing of experiment stations; and the investigation of a wide range of conditions of water supply and the adaptation of crops to climate and soil—these are subjects for an authority which can act in a disinterested way for all concerned.

As the book is intended for popular reading, it is in no sense a manual, though the practical man will find that fundamental principles have been so clearly stated, and happily illustrated by photographs and diagrams, that he can judge intelligently concerning his own particular conditions, and avoid expenditure on ill-advised schemes. The manner in which the author deals with the questions of artesian water, the building of dams and ditches, the use of windmills as a source of power, the methods of measuring water, and the means of conducting water to land in a great variety of situations, must appeal to the common-sense of every practical farmer.

Sixty-two plates and ninety-four diagrams admirably supplement the lucid text. Among the cartograms are a number that show in a striking way the relative size of western states as compared with the Atlantic states, and are well calculated to impress the reader with the vastness of the area with which the book deals. If the book were supplied with definite references to the wide literature of the field, it would be of more use to students; but as it is, it furnishes an excellent introduction to the subject.

L. H. WOOD.

Gems and Gem Minerals. By OLIVER CUMMINGS FARRINGTON, PH.D., Curator of Geology, Field Columbian Museum Pp. 229 + xii. Chicago: A. W. Mumford, 1903.

IN this book it has manifestly been the intention of the author to make the treatment of the subject as non-technical as possible. At the same time, scientific terms have been used whenever these were necessary to give the matter accuracy and definiteness. The subject as a whole has been discussed from the mineralogical standpoint, each gem being considered under the mineral species to which it belongs. Fol-